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AFRICA FOR AFRICANS.*

My earliest recollections are connected with the American Colonization Society. I remember, with interest, that when a mere child, there came to our home in Baltimore, as a present from a Western merchant, a slave boy. My father's conscientious convictions would not permit him to own a slave; the peculiarities of the boy made it undesirable that he should be a citizen at large; and, consequently, he became one of the first who went out to the Liberia Colony. Occasional reports from him, and visits from those who voyaged between this country and Liberia, kept the Society in constant recollection, and have largely been the occasion of the personal interest I have taken in its history and success. These things happened about the time when the Colonization Society was being assailed and denounced by those who were termed "Abolitionists" in this country. And though it was constantly asserted; "The Colonization Society is not a Missionary Society, nor a Society for the suppression of the slave trade, nor a Society for the improvement of the blacks, nor a Society for the abolition of slavery: it is simply a Society for the establishment of a colony on the coast of Africa," yet it attracted to itself the scorn and invective of many who were engaged in the anti-slavery reformation. According to his biographer, it was about this period that Mr. Garrison returned to this country from England, bringing with him a protest against the colonization scheme, signed by such men as Wilberforce, Macaulay, Buxton, and O'Connell. In the days of which I am speaking, the Colonization Society was completely misunderstood both in its attitude and its aims—so completely that many persons could rejoice in hearing of the prayer of "Father Snowdon," as he was called, a Negro preacher of Boston, who, in his fervent and earnest utterances, prayed: "Oh God, we pray Thee that

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that seven-headed and ten-horned monster, the Colonization Society, may be smitten through and through with the fiery darts of truth, and tormented as the whale between the sword-fish and the thrasher."

Originating in a most benevolent purpose, the Society has done great good in its long period of service. For sixty-three years it has given continuous aid to the emigration of persons of the colored race to Africa, the whole number thus going to Liberia being 15,655. Besides this, 5,722 recaptured Africans were, through the efforts of the Society, enabled to settle in Liberia, making 21,377 persons to whom the Society has afforded homes in Africa. One hundred and seventy-eight voyages of emigrants have been made without wreck or loss of life, and the movement is continuous, notwithstanding the bettered condition of the colored people in this country as the result of the acts of emancipation. Liberia, indeed, is now more promising and prosperous than it ever has been. The general advance in the condition of the population has been notable and marked. President Gardner, in his last Annual Message, said: "We have been blessed, during the year, with health throughout our communities, and the earth has yielded more than her usual supplies. The rice crop has been abundant, and the coffee trees have also afforded an unusual yield. There has been a manifest improvement in our relations with the Aborigines. Roads long closed have been opened. The native wars which have been going on in the vicinity of Cape Mount have nearly ceased. These piratical wars are for the most part the result of long-standing feuds arising from the horrible slave trade, and they will be effectually suppressed by the progress of civilization, and the increase of wealth among the people. Friendly communications continue between this country and Ibrahim Sissi, King of Medina, who has been assiduous in his efforts to open the road for trade."

So that the Republic of Liberia stands before the world an embodiment and realization of the dreams of its founders.

Very early in the history of this country, the condition of the free blacks awakened anxiety and caused discussion as to measures of safety and relief. The earliest movement of which I have knowledge was made in 1777, by a discussion in the Legislature of the State of Virginia. Subsequently, when Mr. Monroe was Governor of that State, he was instructed to enter into correspondence with President Jefferson upon the means of procuring an asylum for the free blacks beyond the limits of the United States. President Jefferson, approving the suggestion, instructed Mr. King, then representing this Government in Great Britain, to attempt a negotiation with a company which had effected a settlement in Sierra Leone; but the effort was without practical results. Subsequently a proposition was made to

secure from the Portuguese a location in South America. The General Assembly of Virginia, in 1816, embodied the facts of their previous efforts and their judgment of what ought to be the future effort in this direction, in a preamble and resolution, setting forth the fact that the efforts hitherto made had been frustrated, and that a location ought to be obtained "upon the coast of Africa, or upon the shore of the North Pacific, or at some other place not within any of the United States, or under the control of the Government of the United States, to serve as an asylum for such persons of color as now are free and may desire the same, and for those who may hereafter be emancipated within the limits of this Commonwealth." In 1825, Mr. Tucker, a Senator from Virginia, offered in the United States Senate a resolution, the object of which was to ascertain through the War Department the probable expense of extinguishing the Indian title "to a portion of the country lying west of the Rocky Mountains that may be suitable for colonizing the free people of color." It will thus appear that the State of Virginia was the first to move in the direction of the work which the Society has been accomplishing. Two years after Virginia, action was taken by the States of Maryland and Tennessee; in 1824 formal action was taken by the States of Ohio and Connecticut, in 1827 by the State of Kentucky, and subsequently thereto by almost all the States. In place of the results thus anticipated and desired, and expected to be reached by the action of Government, the Republic of Liberia was founded by Negroes from the United States without Government aid or authority. The eighty-eight persons who sailed from New York in 1820, and who landed first at the British colony of Sierra Leone, dissatisfied with the opening there, sailed south until they succeeded in getting a foothold 260 miles southeast of Sierra Leone, and there acquired territory by treaty and by purchase.

Up to 1847, the American Colonization Society fostered them, and appointed their Governors. In that year they declared themselves free and independent. Great Britain was the first to acknowledge them, and she was soon followed by the other European Powers. Our Government did not recognize the independence of Liberia until 1862, though for many years previously a commercial agency had been established there. By such slow and halting steps have we advanced in the payment of our indebtedness to a land that in all periods of history has attracted the attention of the world.

From the earliest times there has been a fascination in its story. Its mysterious river, mysterious both in its source and its overflow, has associations which carry us to the beginnings of all human history. On its banks, in the sepulchres of forgotten kings, stand the

proudest monuments of human vanity. There the Sphynx, "grand in loneliness, imposing in magnitude, impressive in the mystery that hangs over its story," still sits gazing over and beyond the present far into the past, sole remnant of empires whose creation and destruction it has witnessed, of nations whose birth, progress and decay it has noticed in five thousand slow revolving years. This interest continues all through the period of the Israelitish captivity down to the time when hungry nations were fed by its harvests, and its fields were the graneries of ancient Rome. These waters have flashed with light under the oars of the galleys of Sesostris, and reflected a marvelous beauty from the barges of Cleopatra. The effort to trace their sources has brought Egypt on the north into commercial relations with the dwellers in the centre of the great Continent, and thus those we have deemed so different a people have their links binding them to the dwellers in the interior, and there mingles with our feeling of veneration a sense of indebtedness well expressed by Sir Henry Rawlinson, who says: "For the last three thousand years the world has been mainly indebted for its advancement to the Semitic and Indo-European races; but it was otherwise in the first ages. Egypt and Babylon, Menes and Nimrod—both descendants of Ham—led the way and acted as pioneers of mankind, in treading the fields of art, literature and science. Alphabetic writing, astronomy, history, chronology, architecture, plastic art, sculpture, navigation, crockery: textile industries, seem, all of them, to have had their origin in one or other of these countries. The beginnings may have been humble enough. We may laugh at the rude picture writing, the uncouth brick pyramid, the coarse fabric, the homely and illshapen instruments, as they present themselves to our notice in the remains of these ancient nations; but they are really worthier of our admiration than our ridicule. The inventors of any art are among the greatest benefactors of their race, and mankind at the present day lies under infinite obligations to the genius of these early ages."

We know well that "there was a time when the whole of the northern belt of Africa was bright with Christian light; when Cyprian and Augustine knelt and prayed and wept and suffered and ruled in the churches there. There was a time, when with the Church's rule, temporal prosperity abounded; when that part of North Africa almost rivalled Italy in being the great granary and store-house of the world; when its rich fields, its abundant pastures, its beautiful woods, furnished the mistress of the world all that she needed for her pomp and luxury."

Even Central Africa boasted of its antiquity, and if the legends tell the truth, when "Orpheus was charming the forests into life, and

Hesiod was tracing the genealogies of the gods, and weaving nature and time into song, and Homer was singing the wars of the Græeks and the wanderings of Ulysses, then the bards of Nigretia were celebrating the exploits of their heroes and publishing the records of their renown in the ears of listening kings and admiring nations."

Africa is to-day the object of more interest on the part of a larger number of people than any other quarter of the globe. England, France, Portugal, Germany and Italy are attempting to obtain titles to the country. England has made annexation of the coast lying adjacent to her colony of Sierra Leone; France is forcing her way on the Senegal and toward the head-waters of the Niger: she threatens to annex the coast from the Gaboon to the Congo, some 250 miles, and is running her lines on the Upper Congo. Her Chamber of Deputies has granted the De Brazza mission, by a vote of 449 to 3, a credit of a million and a quarter of francs. The Portuguese Government has appointed explorers and examined the Congo country, and assumes to exercise control over all the territory at the mouth of the Congo. The German Reichstag has increased its annual appropriation for the exploration of Africa. Italy has despatched a party to Abyssinia for geographical and mercantile purposes. She has also concluded treaties which promise to make Assab a centre of commerce. The Sultan of Morocco has authorized Spain to take possession of Santa Cruz del Mar, and the Sultan of Zanzibar has purchased six superior steamers to constitute a regular coast service, in the interest of commerce and for the suppression of the slave trade. The International African Association, which owes its origin to the philanthropic initiative of Leopold II, King of the Belgians, has received large subscriptions and pushed forward exploring expeditions to start and equip the line of hospitable and scientific stations which are to bound the east and west Coast, and form a civilizing girdle around Central Africa. And the results following the explorations of Livingstone and Stanley and De Brazza are attracting the attention of the civilized world. What was a "Dark Continent," by the indomitable energy of these explorers seems likely to prove the richest quarter of the globe. Not only does the land produce, with slight persuasion of tillage, admirable crops of cotton and coffee, but the soil is rich in diamonds on its southern Coast, and in iron on its northern. Captain Burton has asserted that he knows nothing to equal the prodigious wealth of the land, even in California, or in the Brazils. "Gold dust is panned by native women from the sands of the sea shore. Gold spangles glitter after showers in the streets of Axim. Gold is yielded by the lumps of yellow swish that rivet the wattle walls of hut and hovel."

The capitalists of the world are alive to its wondrous possibilities. The President of the United States, rightly estimating the magnitude of the political and commercial questions centering about the Congo, said in his recent message: "The rich and populous valley of the Congo is being opened to commerce by the Society called 'The International African Association,' of which the King of the Belgians is the President, and a citizen of the United States the chief executive officer. Large tracts of territory have been ceded to the Society by the native chiefs, roads have been opened, steamboats placed on the river, and the nuclei of States established at twenty-two stations, under one flag. The objects of the Society are philanthropic. It does not aim at permanent political control, but seeks the neutrality of the valley. The United States cannot be indifferent to this work or to the interests of their citizens involved in it. It may become advisable for us to co-operate with other commercial powers in promoting the rights of trade and residence in the Congo valley free from the interference or political control of any nation."

While these topics are all of general interest, the maintenance and development and strengthening of the State of Liberia, which came into existence under the fostering care of this Society, demands our special attention; and it becomes us to ascertain, if it be possible, by what process the Liberian Republic can be made sure and its influence widened, so that not only its present inhabitants may remain in safety with the opportunities of advancing commerce and increasing civilization, but may continuously in all the future, furnish an asylum for the oppressed and a home for the exile. She has now reached a period in her history when she seems able to bear and sorely to need an influx of enlightened descendants of African parentage from the land of their exile. An important addition to the population is demanded, if she is to extend her influence and push her free institutions and hold her own against the encroachments of foreigners. The natives in the interior seem to be anxious for the planting of civilized settlements on their hills and in their valleys. Their characteristics seem to have been misunderstood. Stanley, in a private letter written in July of last year, goes on to say that those whom, in his book "Across the Dark Continent" he called the "infuriates of Arebu," appealed to him to stop an internecine war, submitted to his arbitration, and paid the fine he imposed.

These facts and others to which attention has been called, give to the suggestions of President Gardner, in his last Message to the Legislature of Liberia, an increased weight and importance. He says: "The importance of increasing our friendly intercourse with the powerful tribes of the country is a matter that cannot claim too much

of our attention. So important do I regard our relation to these our brethren, and so desirous am I of seeing this vast aboriginal population share with us the rights, the privileges, and the joys of civilization and a Christian government. thus giving permanency to the republican institutions on our Coast, that I consider it really the greatest work of Liberia at present to pursue such a policy as will cement into one mass the many tribes about us, and bring them under the moulding influence of our laws and religion."

In this suggestion there is practical wisdom, and it seems to me that the permanency and quiet of Liberia depend upon wisely adopting such a policy. The late Lord Bishop of London, in speaking, in 1858, of the disasters which overtook the Christian Church in northern Africa, attributes them to the fact that that northern belt of Africa was content to be a belt. "She thought that the light of the Gospel had been given to her for herself instead of for others; she did not understand the great benefit which would come back to her as the inevitable reaction of aggressive movement. She stood on the border of the desert and made no sign to the heathen around her, and did not try to gather them in. She was content to be an Italian offshoot, instead of striving to become a living branch. Making no effort there was no reaction, no growth, no development. A wall of darkness hid the light of Christian truth; a wall of barbarism lay beyond the district of civilization, which Christianity had so abundantly watered. The earthquake began to heave the land; there was darkness overhead; there were rumblings beneath; the people were terrified, but did not heed the lesson. They went on in their dream of having a Church for themselves, and their religion for themselves, never seeing or knowing that they were to receive by imparting, and to grow by the reaction of their own activities. The danger thickened, the day darkened, and so when the Mohammedans swept as God's avengers over the land, this neglect became the instrument of vengeance. They had no one to fall back on; there was no gathering of nations or of tribes, who, converted by their teachings, might have checked the Mohammedan invasion. The wave of invasion rolled on; church after church was uprooted, city after city was destroyed, until the light of the Cross was hid, and the Crescent alone was triumphant. The failure to develop strength became weakness; the attempt to confine the light occasioned darkness, and so great has been the darkness, that for centuries they have had no Christianity except as it has been carried to them by the missionary zeal of others."

If Liberia is to maintain the foothold she has gained, and to develop into a commercial State, it must be more than a mere strip of sea-border. It must send back its arms of influence and its reaches

of authority toward the interior, where, by mingling with the native tribes and exhibiting to them the superiority of Christian civilization, they may be attached as friends and be connected as allies; and thus the movement for a State may become the occasion for a religion, and commerce and friendly intercourse, which are essential for protection, may open the way for the enlargement of religious principles and the development of eternal hopes.

An officer of this Society, in a recent publication, has announced Africa to be a virgin market, saying "that religion and philanthropy have something to do with the interest that the European world has of late years taken in the exploration of Africa, is unquestionable. That Continent may now be regarded as the only virgin market of any extent remaining for the rapidly increasing surplus everywhere of manufacturing industry. If the United States do not at present feel the want of such a market as much as other nations, the time will come when they will no longer have the advantage of England and France and Germany in this respect; and they should not forget that they have a foothold in Africa which no other nation enjoys. From the mouth of the Mediterranean southward to the English settlement at the Cape of Good Hope, there is no one spot that offers greater facilities for introducing trade and commerce into the interior of the Continent than Liberia. Slowly, but steadily and surely, a nation is growing up there, whose sympathies, if we retain them, will give us practically the benefit of a colony, without the responsibilities of a colonial system—a nation that at the end of 63 years is further advanced than were many, if not all the colonies of America, after the same lapse of time. Surely such a nation is not to be regarded with indifference, but may be considered as no unimportant factor in the commercial and manufacturing future of the United States, to say nothing of its peculiar fitness for conferring upon Africa the benefits of Christian civilization."

Professor Blyden, the able President of the College of Liberia, said, in his Address last year, "People who talk of the civilizing influence of mere trade on that Continent, do so because they are unacquainted with the facts; nor can missionaries alone do the work. We do not object to trade, and we would give every possible encouragement to the noble efforts of the missionaries. We would open the country everywhere to commercial intercourse; we would give everywhere hospitable access to traders. Place your trade factories at every prominent point along the Coast, and even let them be planted on the banks of the rivers; let them draw the rich products from remote districts. We would say also, send the missionary to every tribe and every village; multiply throughout the country the

evangelizing agencies; line the banks of the rivers with preachers of righteousness—penetrate the jungles with those holy pioneers—crown the mountain tops with your churches, and fill the valleys with your schools. No single agency is sufficient to cope with the multifarious needs of the mighty work. But the indispensable agency *is the colony*. Groups of Christian and civilized settlements must in every instance bring up the rear if the results of that work are to be widespread, beneficial and enduring.”

It is depressing to have to feel that notwithstanding all that has been done by missionary effort, but limited success has attended Christian endeavor. Bishop Nicholson has asserted: “That the Roman Catholic Missionaries tried it for 214 years, and have not left a vestige of their influence behind; that the Moravians, beginning in 1736, tried it for 34 years, making five attempts, at a cost of 11 lives, and did nothing: Englishmen tried it in 1792, with a loss of a hundred lives in two years; the London, Edinboro’ and Glasgow Societies tried it in 1797, but their stations were extinguished in three years and five or six missionaries died. Many other missionary attempts were made before the settlement of Liberia, all of which failed. Several Protestant missions there have done a good work, but it has been at a cost of many lives. *White men cannot live and labor there.*”

And yet in many parts of the country there have been partial successes. The mixed and difficult problems which have embarrassed the missionary work in the interior lake country have been apparently solved. The successes have been purchased, however, at a sacrifice of health and life, as well as by the endurance of toil and privation. Sixteen years ago heathenism and barbarism prevailed in the Niger mission, where now 4,000 are under Christian instruction, and where a king has ordered his people to observe the Sabbath. Steamers have been built in Europe for the express purpose of carrying the glad tidings, and are now sailing on the rivers Niger, Congo and Zambezi and lakes Nyassa and Tanganyika. American missions have been planted and earnestly prosecuted by the American Board, by the Presbyterian Board, and by the Protestant Episcopal Board, as well as by the Board of the Methodist Episcopal Church. A Methodist church was formed on board ship in the first company of Liberia emigrants who sailed in 1820, of which David Coker was pastor. In 1824 the Missionary Board proposed to send a white missionary when a suitable person should be found. In 1832 Melville B. Cox was appointed to the work. He was filled with missionary zeal. He said, “It is the height of my ambition and highest vision of my life to lay my bones in the soil of Africa. If I can only do this, I will establish a connection between Africa and the

Church at home that shall never be broken till Africa is redeemed." Arriving at Monrovia March, 1833, he entered vigorously upon his work in regulating the existing Methodist Church according to the Discipline, in establishing Sunday-schools, and planning additional mission stations. He perished of the fever July 21st, of the same year. Twenty lie beside him in the little missionary burying ground at Monrovia. Since then others have been sent out, and two Episcopal visits of supervision have been made;—Bishop Scott going in 1853, and Bishop Gilbert Haven in 1876. Good has no doubt been accomplished, but the work has grown slowly. Many heroic lives have been sacrificed, and much money has been expended in it, and the results are not encouraging.—(*Miss. Report, M. E. Church.*)

The Missionary Bishop of Cape Palmas, writes: "Four out of seven of the white missionaries in this jurisdiction will return to America for their health this year. White men must grow fewer and fewer in proportion to the workers from among the Negro brethren, until the whole shall be turned over to the people whose home is here." We cannot count on more than three years in the field of every four of the white missionary's term of service, and of these three years there are large deductions to be made of the time one is sick here."

The difficulty largely lies in the fact of the unhealthfulness of the climate. The excessive luxury of the vegetation along the river banks raises them above their proper level and cuts off drainage from the plains; and this must probably always be, necessarily preventing the doing of this work by white men. But it is a work that must be done. The Spring Hill Baptist Association of Alabama, (*colored*), has said, "To remain dormant and leave it for God to use other means and others as agents in the evangelization of Africa is to be in every manner possible criminal, and wholly recreant to the most sacred trust committed to our care." Also, the same Association calls attention to the fact that God always redeems a people by members of the people to be redeemed. When He would emancipate the Jews, Moses is selected; and all through history this truth stands out most prominently. Ethiopia will never stretch out her hands to God until Ethiopians shall have been used as agents. "Africa is to be redeemed through the instrumentality of Africans."

Rev. Dr. Henry M. Turner, of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, says, through the *Christian Recorder*:

"There never was a time when the colored people were more concerned about Africa in every respect than at the present time. In all portions of the country it is the topic of conversation;" and he believes "that if a line of steamers were started from New Orleans, Sa-

vannah, or Charleston, they would be crowded to density every trip they made to Africa. There is a general unrest and a wholesome dissatisfaction among our people, in a broad section of the land, to my certain knowledge, and they sigh for conveyances to and from the Continent of Africa. Something has to be done." And this feeling seems to attach itself to the American character. The yearning for home would seem to have outlasted all the years of exile, and the exactions of bondage. For if Bishop Turner is not mistaken, the same traits are exhibited now and here as were observed by Mungo Park in his early visits. "The poor Negro," he says, "feels the desire in its full force. No water is sweet to him but what is drawn from his own well, and no tree has so cool and pleasant a shade as the Tabba tree of his own hamlet. When war compels him to leave the delightful spot where he first drew breath, and seek safety in some other country, the time is spent in talking of the land of his ancestors, and no sooner is peace restored than he turns his back on the strangers, and hastens to rebuild his fallen walls, and exults to see the smoke arising from his native village."

It may be that even the harsh rigors of slavery and the effects of a protracted bondage have not obliterated from the minds of the descendants of Africans the feelings which were instinct in their fathers; and if, having acquired freedom, they shall use that freedom in acquiring citizenship in the land of their fathers, the skies will smile above them more sweetly there than they can here, and the soil of Africa shall be to them a sacred soil. There they may lay the foundation of an empire in silence and in peace, and in far distant ages it may stand amid the gloom of that now desolate Continent a lighthouse of cheer and beneficence, a monument of praise immortal and beautiful as the stars.

If the Republic can be strengthened by reciprocated fraternity with the tribes and nations that are about it, and if it be maintained in purity and in enlightenment by Christian doctrine and by Christian sentiment, it may be in all the future an asylum where he who has wandered and wept from his childhood may again exult in the smoke of his village; and again—

" Shall drink at noon
The palm's rich nectar, and lie down at eve
In the green pastures of remembered days,
And wake to wander and to weep no more
On Congo's mountain coast, or Gambia's golden shore."

It seems to me that we are called to renewed activity by these considerations. We may not labor *there*, but *here* we are required to toil. The fashioning of the blocks and beams at a distance permitted of old the erection of the temple at Jerusalem without noise or hammer,

May we not here prepare the timber of African liberty? White men must be excluded from the mission field, and also very largely from commercial activity. But the character of the work, the overabundant resources, the remunerative gains will attract the world. Why shall not men of color step in and reap all these advantages? Why should not a people, generous and just, who have heretofore profited by the unrequited toil of enforced bondage, provide the opportunity and the means for their so doing? I know that colored men have a perfect right to dwell here. I know that freedom has been won for them and citizenship granted them. It may be that "all the wealth piled by the bondman's two hundred and fifty years of unrequited toil" was not too large a price to pay for it. I honor and respect the pluck and determination which causes many of them to resolve "to fight it out on the line" of "social recognition;" but I also know the strength and endurance of caste ideas and prejudices. I know that generations must pass away ere ever this (call it prejudice, call it folly, call it sin, if you please) can be done away. It appears where you would least expect it. It has power even over those who pray against it. It will continue even to the distant future a blight and a curse.

Over against this stands a continent where all possibilities are open and where no social ostracism can come; a land of freedom and of recognized independence; a land so situate that it may become a highway to the riches and stored wealth of a hitherto unknown continent; a land in which the sad experiences of former disabilities shall be teachers of wisdom, where the lessons of a civilization they have largely promoted shall be helpers in producing more honorable results and in more equally distributing them; and where there shall be full opportunity of demonstrating all the hopes that they have cherished, and achieving a high destiny, Africa for Africans, but not the "dark continent" from which their fathers were stolen, but Africa explored by Christian zeal, laid open by human endeavor, and a field for the competition of the nations; the spires of Christian churches rising among its palms and banyans, the beaten play ground of village schools upon its shores. Here are the possibilities of realizing a grand future—a period when the jungle and the desert shall blossom with a richer and brighter garbure of beauty than has ever yet greeted her radiant skies; when influences mightier than armies shall conquer her barbarism, and the miserable Caffirs and the reeking Hottentots shall be regenerated and disenthralled, and the wild Arab scouring the illimitable desert shall not be able to outstrip the rattling engine and the rumbling car of commerce, when the oldest and darkest of the continents shall last of all see the great light; the Sphinx interpret the mystery of the civilizations, and the

Nile and the Congo, as they pour out their mighty currents into the oceans, shall be highways for Christian commerce under the direction of the sons of those who once were slaves, but who shall be in full possession of the lands, reigning in peace, exacting in righteousness.

MESSAGE OF PRESIDENT RUSSELL.

GENTLEMEN OF THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ;

In meeting you again for the purpose of taking the annual retrospect of our national affair , it is becoming that we gratefully recognize the kindness of our Heavenly Father in shielding and guiding us to the present moment. The earth has yielded more than its usual supplies. The harvests have been bountiful and gratifying.

FOREIGN RELATIONS. Nothing has occurred to disturb the amicable relations which we sustain to foreign Powers. A treaty of amity and commerce with the Spanish Government at Madrid, has been negotiated by our Minister Resident and will be submitted to you for ratification. In view of the rapidly increasing commerce between Belgium and Liberia, a treaty is now being negotiated between the two countries. Owing to the energy and enterprise of the Liberian Consul General at Antwerp, Baron Von Stein, it is hoped that an extensive trade with Belgium will be established along this Coast, and the attention of the International Association of which the King of the Belgians is the distinguished President, will be called to this portion of Africa.

Soon after the adjournment of you. last session, a despatch was received from A. E. Havelock, Esq., Her Britannic Majesty's Consul to Liberia. On the receipt of this communication, the Government thought it advisable to issue a protest against the action of the British authorities at Sierra Leone, a copy of which is herewith transmitted. The protest was sent to all the Nations with whom we are in treaty relations, accompanied with a dispatch soliciting their good offices in the settlement of the North West boundary dispute. Very few replies have been thus far received. The President of the United States, who manifests deep interest in the amicable adjustment of the question, has communicated to me a suggestion in relation to the subject which will be laid before you. In this connection I may remark that President Arthur has given several tokens of his good will toward this Republic, and of his desire for its success and perpetuity, a disposition in keeping with the traditional policy of the United States.

I recommend that you will as soon as possible adopt such measures on this important subject as that this vexed question may now be for-

ever laid at rest, and in such a way that the friendly relations between Her Majesty's Government and this Republic may be maintained. It is evident that it is of great importance that some definite understanding should be arrived at between the two Governments at the earliest possible moment in relation to the boundaries of the Republic, and it is with you to make such provisions as will enable the Government to carry this out effectually.

THE ABORIGINES. The state of things in our Interior and among the Aborigines generally in our unquestioned territory, is satisfactory. The natives inhabiting the maritime districts between the Cavalla and San Pedro rivers are now in a most friendly attitude, and are seeking to emphasize, in the opinion of the Government, their loyal disposition. The Superintendent of Maryland, under date of August 6th last, writes as follows—"We are at peace with the surrounding native tribes, of which there are several more interiorwards who send in requesting to become allied to the Government. The Beriby people also express the same wish, and we are expecting their chiefs in a few weeks to meet in council in this city."

The apparent friendliness on the part of the natives now from the river San-Pedro to Taboo, offers a good opportunity to strengthen the ties of our relationship with them, and there are strong reasons why it ought to be improved. I earnestly recommend that steps be taken to foster this good feeling, and to effect such a confederation of all the respective tribes within the limits of our jurisdiction, as will bring them into harmonious co-operation with the Government.

Application has been made to the Government by the people of Nanna-Kroo to have a regular port of entry established at that point, which I recommend to your favorable consideration. We are every day more and more convinced of the importance of a rapid incorporation of the native tribes as necessary to the upbuilding of this Republic.

INCREASED FACILITIES TO FOREIGNERS. The time has come for a more liberal policy towards foreigners. The whole European world is advancing towards Africa, and we, as far as it comes within the scope of our influence, should facilitate such intercourse with the country as shall promote a healthy civilization.

In extending facilities along our Coast to foreigners, care should be taken to guard the Aborigines against the introduction of those pernicious influences which have proven so detrimental to aboriginal races elsewhere. Ardent spirits and all intoxicating liquors should be entirely suppressed or admitted under severe restrictions. If this precaution is not taken, the admission of foreigners to direct trade with our unsophisticated brethren will prove more of a curse than a blessing

to them, and involve the Government in constant expense to keep down wars.

The terms on which foreigners are now allowed to hold land should be so improved as to encourage the investment of capital from abroad. I cannot see that it would interfere with the purposes and aims of this nation to grant to foreigners the right of obtaining lands on a far more protracted lease than is now allowed by law. Leases do not confer the rights of citizenship,

THE ENGLISH LOAN. The English loan will soon become due, and it is important that measures be authorized at this session for the payment of the same. Recent events admonish us as to the serious responsibility of claims held against us by foreigners, and we cannot tell what complications may arise from this claim.

THE FINANCES. You will have at an early date in your session the report of the Secretary of the Treasury, which presents in detail a satisfactory exhibit of the receipts and disbursements, as well as the state of the finances and the conditions of the various branches of the public service administered by that department. I commend to your favorable consideration the suggestion of the Secretary with reference to the importance of the Government procuring, as soon as possible, a suitable gunboat for the better enforcement of the revenue laws of the Republic.

EFFORTS OF THE RETIRING ADMINISTRATION. The term of service of the existing administration is now drawing to a close. A distinguished citizen born on the soil will soon take the helm of State. It may not be out of place here briefly to review some of the efforts for the good of the country made by the administration now going out.

It has been our endeavor to liberalize the foreign policy of the country. Additional ports of entry have been opened during the last two years and trade has proportionately increased.

Concessions have recently been granted to a German and a French line of steamers to induce them to take the Liberian ports within the circle of their operations, and application has been made by a Belgian company for a similar concession which has also met with a favorable consideration. The intercourse of these steamers and that of the two lines of English steamers will furnish increased facilities for transporting the produce of Liberia to the various European markets. A concession has been granted for the establishment of telegraph posts in different parts of our territory, thus enabling the Republic to share in the enormous benefits which the telegraph has conferred upon other portions of the globe, and giving us the advantage of that "succinct method of communication."

Our humble efforts to place the finances of the country upon a sound basis have met with encouraging success. The payment of a portion of the customs dues in gold coin, required by the law passed at your last session, is already stimulating enterprise all over the country, and it is hoped that it will soon be possible to require the whole of the customs dues to be paid in coin. I am pleased to be able to record my sense of the patriotism and public spirit with which the much dreaded *Gold law* has been received by the citizens throughout the State.

It has been the policy of the administration not only to increase the number but to improve the condition of the public buildings. In his city the Senate chamber and the Executive Mansion have been restored and reconstructed. The counties of Grand Bassa, Sinoe, and Maryland have witnessed similar improvements.

It has been the cherished object of the Government to promote an efficient system of education not only in its lower but higher branches. The common schools of the country have claimed the earnest attention of the Secretary of the Interior. On application by the Trustees of Liberia College, the Legislature at its session of 1880-'81 made a grant of three thousand dollars for the purposes of that institution. The growing necessities of the College, in view of its removal to the interior and its enlarged curriculum, require that this annual grant be increased. You will be happy to learn that the Faculty has been enlarged by the addition of two Professors from the United States, and that a female department, long desired, has been established and was opened on the 10th of September by an able female principal from America. This department will need to be developed, and an assistant teacher appointed by the patronage and support of the Government.

The educational work of foreign Missionary Societies in this country have also shared the attention of the Government, and liberal grants of land in eligible sites have been made and every other lawful aid given to facilitate their operations. Among those that have claimed the patronage of the administration in these respects may be mentioned the Protestant Episcopal training institution at Cape Mount, the Muhlenberg Mission school near Arthington, the Female school at Brewerville, and the "All Saints Hall" female school on the St. John's river.

To supply a want generally felt, the Government has succeeded in having a map of the territories of the Republic constructed by a Liberian who has distinguished himself in mathematics and explorations; which map has been lithographed, and copies of the same furnished to all foreign Governments with whom

we are in treaty relations, as well as placed in the schools of the country. The following from the Liberian Consul General in Paris, referring to the operations of the War-office in France in constructing a map and history of the western coast of Africa, will show the appreciation of this effort abroad;—"The map drawn up by the Hon. Benjamin Anderson met his (the Secretary of War) approval, and was taken as the basis of the work by the gentlemen entrusted with the Republic of Liberia part."

Ready always to encourage and foster a spirit of combination for laudable enterprises among our citizens, the Government has hailed with deep interest the formation of and granted liberal charters to several organizations of a very promising character. Limited as undoubtedly will be the operations of these companies at the outset, owing to the lack of capital, it is reasonable to hope that in the course of time, by perseverance and energy, they will secure to themselves and to the country generally important and gratifying results.

OUR WORK AND RESPONSIBILITY. It is not for a moment to be doubted that the nations of Europe and that of the United States are interested in the welfare of Liberia as one of the most effective entrances to the interior of Africa, and one of the most promising agencies for its civilization: and they are ready to second any truly liberal and progressive effort put forth by Liberia for the opening of this great Continent for commerce and humanitarian enterprises. But while the European world is interesting itself in this country and by various independent movements endeavoring to open it to civilization, we must not lose sight of the great and peculiar responsibility resting upon us, as the only Christian Negro race on the continent, representing before the world our race, not only in heathenism and barbarism but in civilized lands—having the opportunity to speak for the race at home and abroad as no other community can. The truth cannot be too much impressed upon our mind, that far more than any other nation, it is our duty to strive by intelligence by energy, by industry, by high moral endeavors, to cause this nation to grow in favor and influence with both God and man. And I need not assure you that in your efforts, during this session, to attain these high and noble ends, you will have the earnest sympathy and co-operation of the Executive.

OBITUARY. It is with regret that I have to announce to you that since your last session the Republic has been deprived by death of the valuable services of Hon. James M. Priest, an old and faithful citizen, who for several years filled with ability the office of Associate Justice of the Supreme Court. We have also to mourn the death of Hon. A. L. Stanford, who had just been called to occupy the office of

Judge of the Court of Quarter Sessions and Common Pleas for Montserrado County, made vacant by the illness and subsequent death of that old and valued servant of the Republic, Hon. Beverly Page Yates.

ALFRED F. RUSSELL.

EXECUTIVE MANSION,
MONROVIA, DEC. 1884.

From the Montgomery (Ala.) Independent.

LETTER FROM MR. JACKSON SMITH.

It will be remembered that a Negro named JACK SMITH, who had for a long time worked in the *Advertiser* office, took his family and the money he had saved and boldly struck out for Africa last year. We publish below a letter from him to the first colored Methodist Church in this city. It is interesting to read just at this time. A Bill is before Congress now to solve the Negro problem by colonization in this country. JACK SMITH has solved it in a practical way, and we have never doubted that it would be the final solution, because the work of the Divine hand points unmistakably in that direction. All these years the Negro has been permitted to be kidnapped from his native land, sold into slavery, and in this way brought directly in contact with education and civilization, set free by the convulsions of a frightful civil war, in order that he might be fitted to return to the land of his nativity, and in this way bring the African race up out of bondage, ignorance, superstition and barbarism. Here is a great practical question for Congress. Let it make some provision for transporting these people who want to go back to the home of their fathers, and the vexed question as to the future of the Negro will be forever settled,

BREWERTVILLE, LIBERIA, Jan. 24th, 1884.

DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS:

After a few months residence in Africa, it affords me some pleasure to write to you of my welfare here. We all have had the fever and are up again, and seem to be doing well. We are very well satisfied with our new home, and bid fair to do well in the future. We drew our town lots and twenty-five acres of land, and are getting our building on very well. Only for an accident of mine in burning my foot, I would have been in my new house. You need not listen to the many lies you hear about Africa, saying that yellow people cannot live here; it is all false; they do as well as black ones. The citizens say do better. Be you assured that Africa is the home of the Negro

and you will solve the problem one time or another. Here we have our 200,000,000 of native population, which needs all of your Negroes to civilize them. You will please remember that we are not worrying over the thoughts of a civil rights bill, or any other bill. But we are in our own free country, where we have all the benefits of law and citizenship. In conclusion, please allow me to state, with many thanks to Mr. Joe. Liggans for the kind offer he made me, I do not wish for you to ask for one nickle for me. I am in Africa. I have land enough to make my money off of when I want to come to America. My five children each have their ten acres of land and my wife and I have twenty-five, which suffices us.

While Bro. Sol. Terry predicted that we would bring our children to Africa to die, we are pleased to find that God gave us a safe voyage and has preserved all of our lives to this present time. The same God is here that you have there. So you all may stay and hug the rod that smites you and wear the yoke of oppression, but some will come. We have them from three months old to 80 years. So you see some love freedom.

Very truly,

JACK SMITH.

From the Africo-American Presbyterian.

LETTER FROM MR. JOSEPH WALKER.

We have watched anxiously for tidings of Mr. Walker, and have at last heard from him. Mrs. Mattoon has received a letter from him, and knowing that the readers of the AFRICO-AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN are interested in him, she kindly lends us the letter to get a copy. We give it below just as it is:

BREWERVILLE, *January 17, 1884.*

Dear Friend—I write you these lines to tell you something of my voyage. While on the water we had religious services every Sabbath except the first. On that day nearly all of us were sea sick. We generally had preaching twice a day. The preachers were Revs. W. W. Colley, J. H. Priestley, J. J. Coles and H. McKenney. I preached twice. One of our number confessed Christ in the pardoning of his sins. Such a manifestation of the Lord's presence with us was very encouraging. We landed on the shores of Monrovia, but we soon left Monrovia for Brewerville. We stayed in the Baptist church all night. The next day the assigner pointed out our homes for six months. Some say it is twelve miles from Monrovia; others say it is fourteen. The

soil is very rich. This is said to be a healthier place than Monrovia. I am well pleased with this, my new home. Coffee is plentiful on the trees; sweet potatoes grow wild; bananas and pine apples are in abundance. There is much here to engage any one's attention in teaching, preaching or in tilling the soil which is so very rich. All kinds of workmen are much needed here. I wish you to tell these things to my fellow students of Biddle and encourage them to come forward and lend a helping hand. The Lord has provided rich blessings to them that labor in His vineyard. When I write again I hope to be able to say more about the country. I am informed that the heathen are always glad at the arrival of new emigrants. I am enjoying moderate health. I hope Mr. Stokes, whom I left sick, is now well. Please give my love to all. Yours truly,

JOSEPH WALKER.

Mr. Walker has gone to Africa under the auspices of the American Colonization Society which, from its foundation, has sought the guidance and blessing of God. Mr. Walker will be supported for six months and have a piece of land allotted to him. May heaven's best blessings attend him.

M. L. MATTOON.

From The Presbyterian.

LETTER FROM REV. DAVID W. FRAZIER.

The Presbytery of West Africa has just closed its annual meeting. We have a work here in West Africa, but our force is small. The church in Monrovia is vacant; the church in Scheffelin calls aloud for a pastor, and so does the one at Marshall.

I left New York July 16, on the bark Monrovia, under appointment of the Board of Foreign Missions, and arrived here August 21, since which time I have labored in Sinoe, filling the vacancy caused by the death of the Rev. James M. Priest. I found the members of the church somewhat scattered when I reached Sinoe. The Sabbath school numbers about seventy, a part of whom are natives. We hope that much will be done in that direction in the future. The natives also come down into the town of Sinoe and seem to manifest some interest in the Liberian Government, as seen from the number of native representatives in the Liberian Legislature. I am anxious to see our Church work go on in this benighted land. I know if the young men who are being educated by our Presbyteries listen to the soothing talk of friends at their homes they will never see Africa.

The dogs can get the crumbs which fall from the rich man's table in America, while here they starve for the bread of life. I shall be proud if I shall live to see the day when schools shall be scattered throughout the Republic of Liberia. It would not hurt if they would largely be farm schools.

From the Baptist Companion.

LETTER FROM REV. J. H. PRESSLEY.

In my letter from Sierra Leone, I promised to write you about Monrovia in my next, but I have been going all the time, and will leave here to-day for Grand Cape Mount, so you can see that I only have time to drop you a line or two.

When we went ashore at Freetown, we were delighted with the place. On the 5th of January we left Sierra Leone for Monrovia. On the morning of the 9th we arrived there. If we had been two days sooner, we should have been in time for the inauguration of the President of Liberia. From what we learn it was a grand affair. We called to see the President, Hon. H. R. W. Johnson, and found him to be a very fine man. He is highly esteemed by all the people, and even the heathen chiefs and hundreds of their people came hundreds of miles from the interior, to greet him with their presence, on entering upon his high calling. It is hoped and believed that a better day is dawning for the Government.

Since we have been ashore here we have been stopping with Mr. R. R. Johnson, who came from Richmond thirty-three years ago. He is now a man in good health and of means. We are more than pleased with Monrovia. Instead of stopping here until we acclimate, we have decided to go to our field of labor at once. We will leave this evening for Grand Cape Mount, which is in the Vey country. Our wives and we are so well that we have concluded not to have the fever at all. Rev. Mr. Colley is still full of life as usual, and is pushing forward the work.

While I am writing, Rev. J. O. Hayes has come in, with his young wife. Both of them are looking well, and are ready to enter upon the mission work, under our Board.

From the New York Globe.

LETTER FROM REV. T. McCANTS STEWART.

This is my first public letter since my return from Liberia. Many colored editors have noticed me and the African work. I have read

the comments of some with gratitude, and the reference of others with amusement. I have received invitations from all parts of the country to lecture on Liberia. I have not accepted them, because I am using hours that should be devoted to rest in writing a book to be called "Impressions of Liberia." My desire for the educational and material development of Liberia is greater than ever. A strong Christian Negro nationality on the West Coast of Africa will greatly aid in advancing the interests and promoting the welfare of the colored people in America. We can not afford to be indifferent to the claims of Africa.

After carefully studying the situation on the spot, we reached the conclusion that in addition to the literary work of the College of Liberia, the primary need is an agricultural and industrial education. Both our Liberian and American Boards are thoroughly alive to the necessity of such a work. Indeed this need is felt in America. The general cry everywhere is for industrial schools and departments. Howard University has moved in this direction; and so have many colleges and academies. The latest step has been taken by the college of the City of New York.

I am here at Hampton studying the practical working of this institute in order the better to assist in the establishment and maintenance of an Agricultural and Industrial Department in connection with the Liberia College. Bringing to the Principal, Gen. S. C. Armstrong, letters of introduction from eminent gentlemen, I was very kindly received. Social and official courtesies were extended me, and I was given "the freedom of the Institute."

When we left New York, April 30th, the trees were just beginning to bud. As we sped southward, we were made to think of Africa's sunny clime. The grass was green, the trees had leaves and blossoms, the birds caroled sweetly amid the branches, and the sky was soft and bright. When we reached Hampton we imagined that we were in a Liberia in Virginia. There are so many colored people. They own so much land. They hold such prominent and responsible positions. The sheriff, the postmaster and the marshal, etc., are colored. Hackmen, cartmen, mechanics, laborers, lawyers—all colored. What a change from the North! Truly there is a bright future for the Negro race in the South; and that future will be made brighter and more glorious by going to the rescue of the "fatherland" struggling into the bright light of our Christian civilization.

From The Philadelphia Times.

A CHEERFUL ACCOUNT.

The Rev. Daniel Ware, the native African who represented the Republic of Liberia in the General Methodist Conference, preached to a large congregation yesterday morning in the Methodist church at Fortieth and Sansom streets. "And with thee shall all the nations of the earth be blessed" was the text, and the preacher thought the prophecy as delivered to Abraham was full of significance to all people. "The ways of God," said he, "are full of mystery to us. Nations are sometimes afflicted for a certain purpose. All people are peculiarly adapted to their surroundings. Thus the African, even in his little hut in the cold mountains to the north of Liberia, is blessed and he is as happy with his surroundings as you who have all the light of civilization. But this is the contentment of a sleeping people. The light of the gospel must enter there and the people will receive it.

"I remember when, nineteen years ago, I went in company with Bishop Roberts, to Mount Olive, a settlement away off in the interior of Liberia, for the purpose of administering love feast to a little mission church which had been established there. An old woman who was the mistress of the gree-gree bush where young girls are kept, said that the spirit of God had visited her there while she was in the midst of savage superstition and she had become a Christian. She had never heard the gospel preached, but her husband had been taught by missionaries at a far-away station and he had told her of the wonderful power of God. Hundreds are becoming Christians around Mount Olive.

"On our way home from the mission, we met a savage, a powerful man among his people, and he said that four years before he had heard the gospel preached and had become a Christian. He had been attracted to the meeting by hearing women shouting and praying. He did not know what it all meant at first and on inquiry found that they were Christians and in a short time he became one of them."

"I might relate to you," said the preacher, "many instances like these. You can have no idea of *the great work which is going on in Africa*. I came to this country simply in the interest of my people and feel that *a brighter day is dawning on the Dark Continent*."

From the (Sierra Leone) Reporter.

THE SITUATION IN LIBERIA.

On the 7th of January the new President of Liberia, Hon. H. R. W. JOHNSON, was inaugurated. Thousands of people, Aboriginal and Liberian, assembled at Monrovia, the capital, to take part in the demonstrations of rejoicing.

MR. JOHNSON has peculiar claims upon the people of Liberia. Not only has he been an active and faithful servant of the Government under different administrations, and Professor in the College of Liberia for several years, but his father was among the pioneers of the Colony in 1820 and has been called "a tower of strength" of the little settlement in those early days that tried men's souls. Mr. JOHNSON, born in Liberia of pure Negro parentage in 1837, after all the conflicts between the colonists and aborigines were over and when the colony was fairly established, has inherited the talent, ability, and patriotic spirit of his father. He has hitherto given allegiance to neither of the political parties. There was a fusion of both parties in order to give him an uncontested election; and it will be comparatively easy for him to maintain for a long time his possession of "the highest honor in the gift of the people."

Two weeks after the inauguration of the new President, the new Mayor of Monrovia was inaugurated, and our readers will be glad to learn that this honor has been conferred on a countryman and former townsman of ours—CHARLES T. O. KING, Esq., born at the village of Murray Town about the year 1839. Mr. KING received an elementary education here, and after reaching manhood emigrated to Liberia as a merchant, and became a citizen of the Republic. He has resided in various parts of that country in the prosecution of business, and is pretty generally known throughout the State; but his principal place of residence has been Monrovia, where he seems by his energy, intelligence, enterprise and honesty to have made a favorable impression upon his fellow citizens. He has filled the offices of Justice of the Peace, Clerk of the Courts, Collector of Customs, and Secretary to the Interior Department. In addition to the office of Mayor, he now holds the responsible office of Agent of the AMERICAN COLONIZATION SOCIETY, to whom is entrusted the important duty of locating and rationing for six months all immigrants from the United States.

We have special gratification in recording the accession to power in that rising State of the two gentlemen we have described above. Their accession to such important offices is significant of the elements which must take the lead in that Republic, if it is to be permanent and successful, viz: those born on the soil of colonial parentage and the aboriginal element. Mr. JOHNSON, the President, represents the one, and Mr. KING, the Mayor, the other. The names of KING, SCOTLAND, WILL, and other natives of Sierra Leone who, in commerce and politics, have achieved such marked success in Liberia, show to the enterprising and intelligent youth of this Colony that there is an easily accessible field before them where, by diligence, industry, intelligence and honesty, they may enter upon a career of usefulness, emolument and honor.

LETTER FROM MR. HENRY TAYLOE.

The writer of the following letter is one of the founders of Arthington, Liberia, removing there from Bertie county, N. C., in 1869.

New York, April 21st, 1884.

I take the pleasure of writing to you. I suppose you are aware of my having come to America to have my eyes treated. I am thankful to say that I have been benefitted very much. I presume before a great while I shall return to Liberia. Of course you are posted in regard to the school interests there, and are aware of the improvements which have been made in all the branches of education at Arthington. The school which was under my care for a number of years, until this trouble with my eyes set in, was a constant source of interest to me.

The children have improved rapidly, and their parents and guardians are well pleased with their progress. The people at Arthington are going ahead rapidly in planting coffee. Arthington is acknowledged to be the most flourishing settlement on the St. Paul river. It is filling up very fast, and most of the buildings have two and three stories. It would give me great pleasure, before my return home, to hear from you, and it would probably be in some indirect way beneficial to the advancement of the rising generation in Liberia. We are in great need of emigration, and there is no doubt that there are many of the colored race in this country who would do much good there. We want thorough going men and women. Our success as a nation in the West Coast of Africa will ever be controlled by foreign emigration.

Very truly yours,

HENRY TAYLOE.

LIBERIA COLLEGE.

Arrangements are now nearly completed for the removal of Liberia College from Monrovia to the interior—a step believed by the friends in this country and in Liberia to be indispensable to its prosperity. Under the new administration, the College has advanced in the last three years from three to twenty students. The preparatory department numbers thirty-five pupils. A female department, under an experienced teacher from this country, has been recently added, to which a number of promising girls have been admitted.

The Liberian Legislature, during its session in December, passed a law establishing a High School in each of the three Leeward counties

of the Republic as feeders to the college. The confidence of the Government and people in the actual operations of the college and its future success was never deeper or more wide-spread.

Four students have lately arrived in Monrovia from institutions in the United States, viz., Atlanta University, Richmond Institute, Roger Williams University, and the Natchez Institute, to complete their preparation for usefulness in Africa in the College. The experience of two generations in Liberia has proved that the most effective workers in all the departments of the national life have been persons educated on the spot. And it was the conviction of this fact that induced the principals of various Institutions for colored youth in this country to yield to the suggestions of the President of the College, Rev. Dr. Blyden, during his visit here last year, to transfer from their institutions for study in Liberia College young men who had chosen Africa as their field of labor.

Liberia College is destined to play an important part in the development of the intellectual and material resources of West and Central Africa. It is at present practically the only College in West Africa. Fourah Bay College, at Sierra Leone, founded in 1828, now more than fifty years old, contains at this time only three students and two tutors. It seems difficult to find either professors or students for that institution.

OUR LIBERIA CORRESPONDENCE.

Rev. Father Blanchet, Superior of the Sierra Leone Mission, and Father Lorber, arrived at Monrovia, February 29, and promptly called on President Johnson and Mayor King to pay their respects and to state the object of their mission. They seem well pleased with the prospects for Roman Catholic Church work in Liberia.

Admiral Salmon landed at Monrovia, February 18, to pay a complimentary visit to the new Executive of Liberia. He was cordially received and welcomed by President Johnson and Cabinet, Mayor King and many of the leading citizens.

The last immigrants have moved into their new houses. No deaths have occurred among them. They are working on their lands and seem satisfied. The preceding company of immigrants are well and hearty.

The Legislature, after a harmonious session, adjourned January 19th. The Senate passed a resolution authorizing the President to

accept the northwest boundary of the Republic fixed by Great Britain.

The members of the Cabinet are: Hon. William M. Davis, Secretary of State; Hon. M. T. Worrell, Secretary of the Treasury; Hon. S. N. Williams, Secretary of the Interior, and Hon. J. T. Wiles, Postmaster-General. Messrs. Worrell and Wiles have already held the same positions, and Mr. Davis has long served as Attorney-General, ranking favorably as a jurist and diplomatist.

The annual meeting of the Board of Trustees of Liberia College took place January 1. President Blyden delivered his annual report, which was approved and ordered to be printed.

TWO BISHOPS FOR WEST AFRICA.

At a special meeting of the House of Bishops of the P. Episcopal Church recently held in New York, Rev. Samuel D. Ferguson was chosen Missionary Bishop of Cape Palmas and parts adjacent. Mr. Ferguson went to Liberia under the auspices of the American Colonization Society, removing from Charleston, S. C., May, 1848, when a child of six years, with his parents and others. He was educated for the ministry under the late Bishop Payne, and has for a number of years been a devoted missionary at Cape Palmas. Rev. William Taylor, who has been elected by the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Missionary Bishop of Africa, was born May 2, 1821, in Rockbridge County, Virginia. In March, 1843, he was received into the Baltimore Conference, was ordained deacon in 1845, and elder in 1847. The step is a forward one. Heretofore two missionary bishops have been elected for *Liberia*, by the Liberia Annual Conference, and they were ordained. Never before has the General Conference elected a Missionary Bishop for any of its foreign fields. This unprecedented fact, and the man who is elected to fill the position having such world-wide fame, and deservedly, suggests the hope that a better day will dawn upon the "Dark Continent."

MASSACHUSETTS COLONIZATION SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of the Massachusetts Colonization Society was held at room 6, Congregational House, Boston, on Wednesday, May 28, when the officers of the last year were re-elected. Hon. Joseph S. Ropes is President, and James C. Braman, Esq., is Secretary of this venerable auxiliary.

For the African Repository.

THE WAR IN THE SOUDAN.

BY GEN'L J. W. PHELPS.

The embitterment of the Mohammedans exhibited against their Christian adversaries in Eastern Africa is likely to extend among the tribes of the interior of the Continent. It is by no means improbable that our settlement of Liberia may ultimately experience ill consequences from the suspicion and hatred of the Mohammedan tribes, now newly awakened by the warfare being waged by the English in the Soudan; and it would not be amiss for the active friends of the American Colonization Society to have its attention turned in that direction. In case Liberia should be threatened with extinction by a Mohammedan force on its borders, what ought the United States to do in the case? Would it remain quiet and let the work of ruin be accomplished? Have we no duties to Liberia?

Any danger from this quarter may possibly be remote; but at some time in the future, more or less distant, collisions must take place between the Crescent and the Cross in Western Africa. When we examine into the means of defence which the colonists might possess in such an emergency, we naturally compare their condition to that of our own colonists, when, years ago, they were advancing into the wilderness, in the face of native tribes that were likely at any moment to prove hostile. The system that we then observed was to keep a chain of military posts between the advancing settlers and the Indians. The same system would be applicable to the condition of Liberia. A chain of military posts on her frontiers would prove a great obstacle in the way of an assault upon the country from the interior tribes, and would also serve as nuclei for new settlements. And we doubt if anywhere in the world a young man of color, who has served a term in the United States Army, could do better than to renew his service at such a post, under the Government of Liberia, and at the same time to establish his interests there as a citizen.

Africa, the second continent in size, and perhaps the first in the wealth of productions, belongs to Africans by natural right. Perhaps one of the reasons why Africans have never migrated, is because they have always found ample spontaneous subsistence at home. To this wealth the colored men of the Western continent have the first claim; first, as their natural birth-right; second, as a merited reward for their long and unrequited labors; and third, though not last, as the missionary field, which they of all people are the best fitted to occupy and reclaim to Christian civilization.

The position which the United States occupies towards the freedmen within her borders is unexampled, except in the single case narrated by the Bible. In that case two slave-born men alone, out of several millions, entered their ancient land of promise. One of these was the leader of his people. But if an effort had been made to keep the Israelites in Egypt, and make one of their race a ruler over both races as we seem aiming to do in the United States, there would doubtless have been trouble. There is also destined to be much trouble among ourselves before the two races are thoroughly amalgamated into one nation. It is not impossible that the colored race may have to take arms in self-defence, not only against Mohammedans in Africa, but even here in the United States.

In view of these possibilities, it will prove to the interest of thousands of that race to have a country unquestionably their own, open to receive them. It is a higher and more elevating object to be the rulers of a whole continent, than to be a subordinate and unhomogenous element of an alien nation. To identify one's personal existence with the immortal life of a great continent, is a far more elevating motive than can be offered elsewhere. All who give scope to this higher motive, should have all the aid and forethought which well-wishers can offer them. And hence, we venture to make these suggestions. We have made similar ones many years ago; but there would not appear to be any harm in repeating them once more.

Guilford, Vt., May 19, 1884.

LETTER FROM REV. DR. BLYDEN.

Sierra Leone, March 13, 1884.

I left Monrovia on the 25th January, for recreation and rest. On the way up, the steamer stopped at Mannah, the North-west boundary of the Republic as fixed by the British Government.

An English trading company has been recently formed, called THE SULYMAH TRADING COMPANY. They have established themselves at Mannah, Sulymah, and a new station called Lavannah. We stopped at Sulymah and Lavannah in search of cargo. The captain of the steamer gave me these distances: Mannah is 14 miles N. W. from Cape Mount; Sulymah is 8 miles from Mannah; Lavannah is 18 miles from Sulymah; Shebar is 52 miles from Lavannah; Free-town is 130 miles from Shebar. If Liberia claimed to Shebar, then we have lost 78 miles of territory. If we claimed to Gallinas, we have lost only 12 miles.

The opportunities at Sierra Leone for hearing from the interior

are far greater than in Liberia. Since I have been here I have had opportunity of conversing with natives not only from Timbuctoo, Sego, &c., but from Musardu and Medina, large Mandingo cities in the rear of Liberia, from which the trade should flow into Monrovia and Bassa and Cape Palmas. The Mohammedans of the interior of Liberia are much respected here for their intelligence, learning and military powers. A Musardu leader in command of some fifty thousand soldiers and three thousand horsemen, is now about three hundred miles east of Sierra Leone, compelling the Pagans to keep the roads open for trade and bringing them over to Mohammedanism. Before his military energy the most powerful pagan states seem to be helpless.

Liberia's day must come. She has the possibilities even more than Sierra Leone, which is controlled by men at a distance, for absorbing the interior tribes into one large Negro nationality.

EMIGRANTS FOR LIBERIA.

The customary Spring expedition of the American Colonization Society left New York by the bark "Monrovia," April 15th. It comprised thirty-four emigrants, accompanied by their baggage and the usual supplies provided by the Society for their settlement and the support of its schools in Liberia. All the people are to locate at Brewerville, save a young man who intends to enter the College at Monrovia. One is from Philadelphia, and three are from Pittsburgh, Pa., twenty-one from Shawboro, Currituck Co., N. C., two from Dunlap, Kansas, and seven from Lincoln, Nebraska. Thirteen are professing Christians. Of the male adults, seven are farmers and one is a house carpenter. They are industrious persons, many of them having relatives and acquaintances in that Republic who invited them to emigrate.

We are pleased to announce the arrival of the "Monrovia" at Sierra Leone in twenty-one days from New York. This is probably the shortest passage between the two ports.

HON. WILLIAM M. DAVIS.

By the steamship Africa, which arrived on the 22d March, Hon. William M. Davis, Secretary of State of Liberia, was a passenger to this settlement. He came for rest and recreation. After being for a few days the guest of Hon. Samuel Lewis, he removed to the Liberian Consulate, where he will be entertained by Mr. Consul Boyle during the remainder of his stay in the settlement. Mr. Davis has filled with ability several important offices in the Liberian State. He is now the Acting Attorney General as well as Secretary of State.—*The (Sierra Leone) Reporter.*

ROLL OF EMIGRANTS FOR LIBERIA.

By Bark *Monrovia*, from New York, April 15th, 1884.

No.	NAME.	AGE.	OCCUPATION.	RELIGION.
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From Philadelphia, Pa.

1	Isaac Moort.....	17		
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From Pittsburg, Pa.

2	Richard Booker.....	34	Farmer.....	
3	Louisa Booker.....	32		Methodist.....
4	Charles S. Booker.....	10		

From Shawboro, Currituck Co., N. C.

5	James Sears.....	33	Farmer.....	
6	Virginia Sears.....	32		Methodist.....
7	Emma Sears.....	11		
8	Margaret Sears.....	9		
9	Susan Sears.....	7		
10	James H. Sears.....	5		
11	David Sears.....	1		
12	Mary Sears.....	50		Methodist.....
13	Joseph Sears.....	31	Farmer.....	Baptist.....
14	Louisa Sears.....	30		Baptist.....
15	Peter Shaw.....	21	Farmer.....	Methodist.....
16	Ellen Shaw.....	22		Baptist.....
17	Mamie W. Shaw.....	1		
18	Letitia Shaw.....	50		Methodist.....
19	Wilson Shaw.....	32	Farmer.....	
20	Sallie Shaw.....	28		Baptist.....
21	Angelina Shaw.....	10		
22	Patsy Shaw.....	7		
23	Annie M. Shaw.....	5		
24	Siss Shaw.....	3		
25	Catharina Shaw.....	1		

From Dunlap, Morris Co., Kansas.

26	Abraham Powell.....	40	Farmer.....	
27	Amy Powell.....	45		Methodist.....

From Lincoln, Nebraska.

28	Grandison Miles.....	65	Carpenter....	Baptist.....
29	Sarah Miles.....	60		Baptist.....
30	Jacob Carter Miles.....	17		
31	Hannah Carter Miles.....	17		
32	Frank Carter Miles.....	1		
33	George Henry.....	50	Farmer.....	Methodist.....
34	Jane Henry.....	45		Methodist.....

NOTE.—The foregoing named persons make a total of 15,769 emigrants settled in Liberia by the AMERICAN COLONIZATION SOCIETY.

RECEIPTS OF THE AMERICAN COLONIZATION SOCIETY.

During the month of March, 1884.

NEW JERSEY. (\$2.00.)		cost of emigrant passage to Liberia,	40 00
<i>Vineland.</i> Rev. A. A. Constantine,	2 00	FOR REPOSITORY. (\$2.00)	
VIRGINIA. (\$2.00)		Maryland,	2 00
<i>Alexandria.</i> Mrs. M. B. Blackford,	2 00	RECAPITULATION.	
NORTH CAROLINA. (\$11.50)		Donations,	4 00
<i>Shawboro.</i> James Sears and others, additional toward cost of emigrant passage to Liberia, ..	11 50	Emigrants toward passage,	51 50
ARKANSAS. (\$40.00)		For African Repository,	2 00
<i>Plummerville.</i> R. R. Walting and others, additional toward		Rent of Colonization Building,	182 00
		Interest for schools in Liberia,	90 00
		Total Receipts in March,	\$329 50

During the month of April, 1884.

MASSACHUSETTS. (\$10.00)		NEBRASKA. (\$36.00)	
<i>Charlestown.</i> Edward Lawrence, by D. D. Addison,	10 00	<i>Lincoln.</i> George Henry, toward cost of emigrant passage to Liberia, by Dr. John J. Turner, ..	36 00
NEW YORK. (\$1131.23)		FOR REPOSITORY. (\$6.00)	
<i>Saugerties.</i> Legacy of Mrs. Anna C. Chittenden, James W. Korts, Ex:	1131 23	New Jersey \$2. North Carolina \$2. Arkansas \$1. Missouri \$1.....	6 00
PENNSYLVANIA. (\$10.00)		RECAPITULATION.	
<i>Pittsburg.</i> Richard Booker, additional toward cost of emigrant passage to Liberia,	10 00	Donations.....	30 00
ILLINOIS. (\$20.00)		Legacy.....	1131 23
<i>Jacksonville.</i> Rev. James C. Finley \$10, Mrs. A. C. Burnham, \$5. Mrs. H. S. McKinley \$5. by Rev. James C. Finley,	20 00	Emigrants toward passage,	46 00
		For African Repository,	6 00
		Rent of Colonization Building,	79 33
		Total Receipts in April,	\$1292 56

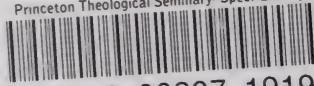
During the month of May, 1884.

NEW YORK. (\$25.00.)		RECAPITULATION.	
<i>White Plains.</i> Mrs. S. E. Lester.	25 00	Donations.....	27 00
VIRGINIA. (\$2.00.)		Rent of Colonization Building.....	87 00
<i>Alexandria.</i> Mrs. M. B. Blackford.	2 00	Total Receipts in May.....	\$114 00

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